

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 SAB-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DPW-01 AID-20

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /173 W

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R 171230Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1205

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0284

FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJ: LIKUD ATTACKS GOI ON PROPOSED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 0270

1. LIKUD LEADER BEGIN, IN JAN 16 TV/RADIO INTERVIEW ON EVE OF SCHEDULED MEETING WITH SECRETARY, LAUNCHED SHARP ATTACK AGAINST GOI POLICY RE PROPOSED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. HIS COMMENTS PROVIDE OUTLINE OF EXPECTED LIKUD POSITION IN KNESSET DEBATE JAN 21.

2. BEGIN SAID THAT PROPOSED AGREEMENT WOULD CREAT "A VERY WORRISOME SITUATION." IN HIS VIEW, GOI WAS AGREEING TO A ONE-SIDED ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT EITHER A PEACE AGREEMENT OR AN

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EGYPTIAN DECLARATION OF NON-BELIIGERENCY. EGYPTIAN OFFENSIVE

EQUIPMENT WOULD REMAIN IN PLACE ON EAST BANK OF SUEZ CANAL, PROVIDING AN OPENING TO GREAT DISASTER. GOI HAD LOST ITS CREDIBILITY BY ABANDONING ITS PREVIOUS POSITION BARRING ANY WITHDRAWAL EXCEPT IN CONTEXT OF PEACE AGREEMENT.

3. BEGIN ADDED THAT LIKUD WILL DEMAND THAT GOI NOT SIGN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED. HE CHALLENGED AUTHORITY OF PRESENT CARETAKER GOVERNMENT TO ENTER INTO SUCH AN AGREEMENT, NOTING THAT SUCH ACTION COULD CONSTITUTE BREACH OF RULES OF PARLIMENTARY DEMOCRACY.

4. AS TO CONTROVERSY OVER LIKUD ALLEGATIONS RE NEW EGYPTIAN MISSILE INSTALLATIONS ON EAST BANK (REFTEL), BEGIN SAID THAT DISCLOSURE HAD NOT VIOLATED ISRAEL NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS AND THAT ALL ISRAELIS WERE ENTITLED TO KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

5. COMMENT: LIKUD'S OPPOSITION TO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH NEGATIVE STAND WHICH IT HAS ADOPTED ON ALL GOI FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS SINCE OCTOBER WAR. ANTICIPATED GOI ACCEPTANCE OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ALREADY PROVOKING SPATE OF NEGATIVE REACTION, WITH RIGHTWING AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS ADOPTING PREDICTABLE CRITICAL EDITORIAL LINE SIMILAR TO THAT TAKEN BY LIKUD. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT FACT OF CARETAKER STATUS OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE ENOUGH TO HOLD UP SIGNING OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

KEATING

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30 JUN 2005

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